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A PUBLICATION FROM THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

# Journal

*September 1998*[Click here for past Journals.](#)

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### Bodi joins BPA

Lorri Bodi will join BPA on Sept. 1. She was Co-Director of the Northwest Office of [American Rivers](#).

"I've worked with Lorri in the past and found her a focused negotiator, good at bringing closure," said BPA Administrator Judi Johansen said. "She brings an environmental dimension that will broaden our thinking." Bodi has said, "My goal, which Judi shares, is to work with the diverse interests in the region to come up with a unified fish plan. To gain regional support, a fish plan has to be scientifically sound and affordable. It needs to work for the fish and for the ratepayers."

Bodi will report to Johansen as a senior policy advisor on fish and wildlife issues. Her specific role will be to help the region develop agreement on BPA's future responsibilities for fish and wildlife. Bodi will be based in Seattle, but will work two days a week in Portland. Bodi, an attorney, also has previously served as counsel to the [National Marine Fisheries Service](#) and to the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#).

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### **NW Tribes and BPA work together on energy deregulation**

The Economic Development Corp. of the [Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians](#) wants to ensure that Northwest Tribes have a solid foundation for making informed decisions about opportunities associated with energy deregulation. BPA will provide \$200,000 to help support the efforts of the EDC. BPA will help educate and train the Tribes so they have the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions about options available to them through energy deregulation.

EDC has hired Sonya Tetnowski as energy coordinator to work with the Northwest Tribes and BPA. Tetnowski, a member of the Makah Tribe, has worked as Women's Business Ownership Coordinator for the Native American Business Network. As energy coordinator, she will be responsible for working with Tribal representatives, local utilities and BPA to develop reservation energy profiles. She will also plan a series of educational workshops over the next year where the Tribes will learn about the energy industry, energy transactions, public and private utilities operations and renewable resources.

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians has been serving the regional interests of over 50 member Tribes in the Pacific Northwest for the past 40 years. In 1996, the affiliation created the Economic Development Corporation to provide regional support for the economic development efforts in Indian country. The ATNI-Economic Development Corporation is headquartered in Linwood, Wash.

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### **Customers, constituents, tribes rate BPA's 1998 performance**

Customers are more satisfied with BPA over last year according to results from BPA's recent customer satisfaction survey. BPA surveyed 202 customers from all three business lines - power, transmission, and energy efficiency, with a 93 percent response rate. Overall satisfaction increased by 17 percent across all three business lines, with the power business posting the biggest gains at 22 percent. The most common concerns were the account executives' authority to make decisions, timely resolution of issues, and the length and complexity of contracts.

Customers rated BPA's power and transmission businesses "about the same" and energy efficiency "better" when compared to other energy service providers.

The 1998 BPA Constituent Survey found that the Northwest Power Planning Council, state legislatures, local governments and congressional groups are largely satisfied with BPA, while public interest groups are generally unsatisfied. Representatives from a wide cross-section of groups were surveyed. The most frequent comment was that BPA needs to clarify and communicate its purpose.

Tribal councils and staff are more satisfied with BPA this year, going from 67 percent "somewhat" or "extremely" satisfied in 1997 to 78 percent in 1998. Some of the 25 respondents gave BPA high marks for working to improve relations with Tribes and others think BPA still has a lot of work to do.

BPA conducts the customer, constituent, and tribal surveys annually. Since 1996, the same survey has been used so that results and trends can be tracked over time. A survey of BPA employees is done at about the same time to measure employee satisfaction as well. Results are used to make program improvements. Last year, for instance, BPA's power business reduced the average length of its contracts from 37 pages to 17 pages in response to customer survey feedback that BPA contracts were too long.

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### **New framework for fish & wildlife begins**

BPA has agreed to provide \$894,000 to fund the first phase of a regional effort to develop a scientific framework for fish and wildlife restoration. Led by the [Northwest Power Planning Council](#), the framework's joint working group includes the region's states, tribes and federal agencies. The framework is intended to provide a unified plan and a scientific foundation to help the region set policies and goals for restoration and serve as a guide for the kinds of recovery programs to implement. The framework will not address questions of governance - who makes the region's key fish and wildlife policy decisions and who should be held accountable for results. BPA's contribution falls under the "direct program" budget that pays for projects in the NWPPC's Fish and Wildlife Program. The money will go for contracting with scientists for technical work as well as project management. The NWPPC will administer the project, with a three-member management committee consisting of a representative each from the states, tribes, and federal agencies.

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### **Scientists call for stable flows**

The Northwest Power Planning Council's Independent Scientific Advisory Board is calling for BPA and operators of the mid-Columbia dams to maintain stable flows and avoid load following in the Hanford Reach between mid-March and late May when fall chinook are emerging as fry. Load following refers to automatic changes in generation to follow changes in the amount of load (amount of energy delivered or required) on a second-to-second basis in order to keep the hydrosystem's generation and output matched. An imbalance in system generation and load could result in a power failure.

Under the existing Vernita Bar Agreement, water levels are kept high enough through winter so that the redds (nests containing fertilized eggs) remain covered with water until the eggs hatch and the fish emerge. After hatching, the fry move to the edge of the river where they feed. ISAB says that significant

numbers are stranded when flows are reduced as generation is cut back to match reduced demands for power. ISAB wants load following to stop as long as there is a risk to juvenile salmon. Further analysis is needed before next spring to understand how to reduce stranding and still meet peak loads. Early estimates indicate the financial impact on mid-Columbia generators of eliminating peaking in this period could run in the tens of millions of dollars and it is not altogether clear where the region would turn to meet peak loads.

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## **1997 is record year for hydropower**

Despite the memorable Columbia River floods of 1996, it was 1997 that set new all-time records for hydropower production in the United States, according to a report from the Energy Information Administration. EIA says the hydro boom was due to heavy snowpack and rain in the Northwest, where utilities increased hydro generation by 8 billion kilowatt-hours in 1997, compared to 1996, while reducing coal and natural gas consumption. Nationally, U.S. utilities produced 341 billion kWh of hydropower in 1997, topping the 1983 record of 332 billion kWh. The 1997 hydropower production beat 1996 by 10 billion kWh. The report, U.S. Electric Utility Generation by Energy Source, 1997, is available on EIA's [web site](#).

Deregulation lowers rates to industries The nation's industries are now paying retail prices for electricity that are about the same as wholesale firm power prices, according to an Energy Information Administration report. Average power rates to the industrial sector fell from 4.8 cents per kilowatt-hour in 1992 to 4.6 cents per kWh in 1996. While industrial rates have been going down, residential retail rates have been going up. Average residential retail power prices rose from 8.2 cents per kWh to 8.4 cents per kWh in the same period. The complete report, "The Changing Structure of the Electric Power Industry: Selected Issues, 1998," is available on EIA's [web site](#). The website also offers a basic brochure on power industry restructuring, "The Restructuring of the Electric Power Industry: A Capsule of Issues and Events."

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## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

### **Status Reports**

#### **BPA/Lower Valley Transmission Project.**

Idaho and Wyo. — To resolve a voltage stability problem in the Jackson and Afton, Wyo. areas; new 115-kV line proposed on existing right-of-way. ROD expected mid-August. Call to receive a copy.

#### **Big Eddy-Ostrander Vegetation Management EA.**

Ore. — To control vegetation on two segments of the 500-kV transmission line right-of-way. One segment is from Lolo Pass to near Parkdale. The other segment is east of Parkdale. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

#### **Bonneville-Hood River Vegetation Management EA.**

Ore. — To control vegetation on the 115-kV transmission line right-of-way between Bonneville Dam and Hood River. The EA is available. Call to receive a copy.

**Columbia Wind Farm #1.**

Wash. — The final EIS (#2682) is available. Call to receive a copy.

**Fourmile Hill Geothermal Development Project EIS (Calpine).**

No. Calif. — A geothermal power plant and new transmission line have been proposed on Forest Service land in the Klamath and Modoc forests. BLM has the lead. BPA is a cooperating agency. A draft EIS summary is available. Call to receive a copy.

**Garrison-Taft 500 kV Transmission Line Right-of-Way. —**

Montana. Vegetation Management. To remove tall growing vegetation from right-of-way in 1998/99 maintenance seasons. An environmental review is available. Call to receive a copy.

**Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement.**

Idaho — Development of a native chinook salmon broodstock for rearing of acclimated smolts to preserve and recover the population. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Northwest Regional Power Facility.**

Wash. — To construct a combustion turbine near Creston. The final EIS (#2887) and a Supplement Analysis is available. Call to receive a copy.

**Select Area Fisheries Evaluation.**

Ore. and Wash. — Placement of net pens in Clifton Channel, Deep River and Steamboat Slough. A revised FONSI is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**South Oregon Coast Reinforcement EIS.**

Ore. — To reinforce electrical service to the southern coast of Oregon and provide the necessary transmission for Nucor Corp. to build a new steel mill in the Coos Bay/North Bend area. The Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and Corps of Engineers are cooperating agencies. A draft EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Telephone Flats Geothermal Project EIS (CalEnergy).**

No. Calif. — A geothermal power plant and new transmission line have been proposed on Forest Service land in the Modoc Forest. BLM has the lead and BPA is a cooperating agency. The draft EIS is available. Call to be added to the mail list. See Close of Comment.

**Vegetation Management Program EIS.**

Regionwide — To develop a vegetation management program while maintaining a safe and reliable transmission system. The draft EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

**Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Programmatic EIS.**

Wash. — The Bureau of Reclamation has the lead and BPA is a cooperating agency. The final programmatic EIS is being prepared. Call 1-800-861-5443 to be added to the mail list.

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**Calendar of Events****Governance and the Columbia River Conference**

Oct. 15, Lloyd Center Doubletree Hotel, Portland, Ore.

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**Acronyms:**

EA: Environmental Assessment

EIS: Environmental Impact Statement

FONSI: Finding of No Significant Impact

NOI: Notice of Intent

ROD: Record of Decision

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An archive of past *Journals* is available on the Internet at  
<http://www.bpa.gov/Corporate/KC/home/journal/>.

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We welcome all comments from you at Journal-CKC, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, OR 97208-3621 or [enballa@bpa.gov](mailto:enballa@bpa.gov).

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**For More Information or To Get Involved:**

The *Journal* is a monthly newsletter of the Bonneville Power Administration for customers and interested publics.

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